

HB 285 -- PREVAILING WAGE ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill prohibits the Missouri Housing Development Commission from requiring a prevailing hourly wage to be paid to a contractor on a project eligible for a housing tax credit if it is in a Governor-declared disaster area.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wages were meant to apply to public works projects and that the projects of the Missouri Housing Development Commission are not appropriately deemed public works projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative White; Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that because a state generates its revenue through income tax, potentially higher wages would help the state's bottom line. The state granted certain authority to the Missouri Housing Development Commission, and it should be allowed to use that authority as it sees fit.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; IBEW1/St. Louis NECA; Missouri Laborers' Legislative Committee; Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity; Construction Employers Coalition; St. Louis Building and Construction Trades Council; Missouri State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council# 3; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council#58; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas City; Mechanical Contractors Association-Eastern Missouri; Kenneth R. Menges, United Transportation Union; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; SMACNA St. Louis; and United Steelworkers District 11.